



MARINE AVIATION LOGISTICS SQUADRON 31

CO's Policy on Sexual Assault

March 2012



Marines and Sailors of MALS-31,

Sexual assault is a criminal act that is incompatible with our Core Values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment. Sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by the use of force, physical threat of force, or abuse of authority; or when the victim does not or cannot consent. **If you engage in ANY kind of sexual activity with someone, they MUST consent AND have the ABILITY to consent. SOMEONE EXCESSIVELY INTOXICATED OR UNCONSCIOUS CANNOT CONSENT.** Sexual assault includes rape, unwanted or inappropriate sexual contact, or attempts to commit these crimes. Sexual assault is not restricted to any gender, race, or age. Where cause exists, violators will be subject to appropriate and immediate legal and/or administrative action. **Acts of sexual assault will not be tolerated.**

Marine Corps Order 1752.5A provides specific guidance and instructions for identifying, reporting, and addressing the issue of sexual assault. Reporting may follow one of two paths based on the desire of the victim: Restricted or Unrestricted.

Under **restricted reporting**, no investigation for the assault will occur. A restricted report may be made only to the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), Victim Advocate (VA), Uniform Victim Advocate (UVA), Healthcare Providers, Chaplains, or *Military OneSource* 24/7 (800-342-9647). Victims who choose to utilize restricted reporting are afforded appropriate medical, informational, advocacy, and emotional/psychological counseling support services. Law enforcement or the command will be notified that an assault took place, but will not be made aware of the victim's identity.

Under **unrestricted reporting**, the victim will still be afforded medical, informational, advocacy, and emotional/psychological counseling support services, but the command is notified and an investigation will ensue. Law Enforcement will be involved as appropriate. An unrestricted report may be made to Law Enforcement or the command in addition to those who may receive a restricted report. Although the victim's identity is made known to the command or Law Enforcement under unrestricted reporting, care will be made to ensure that the identity is made to only the appropriate individuals with a need to know (e.g the unit commander and investigating authorities).

Victims of sexual assault are often physically, mentally, and emotionally wounded. They will be treated with sensitivity, decency, and respect. MALS-31 will ensure victims receive appropriate medical, emotional, psychological, and social services. A victim's privacy is also paramount. Care will be taken to ensure that the identity of a victim of sexual assault is released only to those with a need to know. Victims who report sexual assault must feel confident that their personal safety and privacy will be protected and that they will not be subject to the re-victimization of public ridicule or harassment. Upon receipt of a report of sexual assault, this command will ensure the victim is physically safe and afforded prompt medical attention. MALS-31 will also ensure all available resources are utilized to meet the victim's long-term emotional, mental, and spiritual needs. Victims of sexual assault who choose to make a restricted report will have that choice honored.

Our most valuable asset is the individual Marine and Sailor. Each is important and deserves the best leadership and support possible. Ignoring or failing to report sexual assault is detrimental to victims and units. The Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC)/Program Manager, Uniformed Victim Advocate (UVA), Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS), and Command Chaplain stand ready to provide an array of support services to victims of sexual assault.

If you or someone you know are a victim of sexual assault, please notify the UVA or SARC. Eliminating incidences of sexual assault takes a dedicated effort. I challenge every individual to accept responsibility for achieving this goal. The Stinger Family deserves nothing less.

Semper Fidelis,



WILLIAM C. GRAY

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding Officer, MALS-31